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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,187	01/08/2001	Mike Farwick	P 275573 990219BT	4866

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

FRONDA, CHRISTIAN L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1652	8

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/755,187	Applicant(s) Farwick et al.
	Examiner Christian L. Fronda	Art Unit 1652
-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --		
<p>Period for Reply</p> <p>A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>1</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
<p>Status</p> <p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.</p> <p>2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i>, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.</p>		
<p>Disposition of Claims</p> <p>4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-17</u> is/are pending in the application.</p> <p>4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.</p> <p>5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.</p> <p>6) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.</p> <p>7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.</p> <p>8) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claims <u>1-17</u> are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</p>		
<p>Application Papers</p> <p>9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.</p> <p>11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved.</p> <p>12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.</p>		
<p>Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119</p> <p>13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).</p> <p>a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some* c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of:</p> <p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</p>		
<p>*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</p> <p>14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).</p>		
<p>Attachment(s)</p> <p>15) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____</p> <p>16) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</p> <p>17) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____</p>		

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Originally filed claims 6-18 are renumbered as claims 5-17 because the originally filed claims omitted claim 5.

Election/Restriction

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-7, drawn to an isolated polynucleotide, a vector, and a coryneform bacterium containing said vector, classified in class 435, subclass 252.32.
 - II. Claims 8, 11, 12, and 15, drawn to a process for the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids by fermenting a coryneform bacteria wherein the gene coding for component H of the phosphotransferase system is enhanced, classified in class 435, subclass 106.
 - III. Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 15, drawn to a process for the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids by fermenting a coryneform bacteria wherein the gene coding for component H of the phosphotransferase system is enhanced and one or more genes are enhanced selected from the group consisting of the dapA, pyc, tpi, gap, ptsM, pgk, and lysE gene, classified in class 435, subclass 106.
 - IV. Claims 8, 10, 12, 14, and 15, drawn to a process for the fermentative preparation of L-amino acids by fermenting a coryneform bacteria wherein the gene coding for component H of the phosphotransferase system is enhanced and one or more genes are attenuated selected from the group consisting of the pck, pgi, and poxB gene, classified in class 435, subclass 106.
 - V. Claim 16, drawn to the use of a polynucleotide as primers for the preparation of DNA of genes coding for the ptsH gene product, classified in class 435, subclass 91.2.
 - VI. Claim 17, drawn to the use of a polynucleotide as a hybridization probe, classified in class 435, subclass 6.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

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Inventions of Groups II-VI are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). Each of the processes of Groups II-VI are distinct both physically and functionally, have different purposes, and require different process steps, reagents, and parameters.

The product of Group I is unrelated to each of the processes of Groups II-IV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). Each of the processes of Groups II-IV do not require the product of Group I.

Inventions I and (V and VI) are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product such as using the polynucleotide in a recombinant process to make a polypeptide.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. The claims are generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species. Applicants are required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, even though this requirement is traversed.

For Group III, the species are each of the dapA, pyc, tpi, gap, ptsM, pgk, and lysE gene. If this group is elected, then Applicants must elect only one gene for examination.

For Group IV, the species are each of the pck, pgi, and poxB gene. If this group is elected, then Applicants must elect only one gene for examination.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37

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CFR 1.143).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian L. Fronda whose telephone number is (703)305-1252. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, can be reached at (703)308-3804. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0196.

A response to this Office Action may be faxed directly to the Examiner whose Fax Number is (703)746-5036 in order to expedite prosecution.

CLF



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